

Las Cruces, NM - Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague will unveil his bill to address an increasingly prevalent issue for military personnel and combat veterans, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Congressman Teague's legislation calls for mandatory mental health screening for military personnel upon induction into the military, before and after deployment, and before discharge. Congressman Harry Teague will announce the legislation at Veterans' Memorial Park in Las Cruces with local officials he worked with as he drafted this legislation.

The legislation comes amid rising concerns that undiagnosed and untreated PTSD cases are leading to mental health issues that decrease quality of life for returning combat veterans and in some cases suicide. The Veterans Affairs National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder estimates that up to 20 percent of Iraq War Veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD. Congressman Harry Teague will name the legislation after an Iraq war veteran from Las Cruces who took his own life after struggling to receive a PTSD diagnosis and repeated efforts to receive proper treatment for PTSD. The veteran was a member of the 101st Airborne Division, which has had 14 deaths being investigated as suicides in 2009.

What: PTSD Screening Legislation Announcement

Where: Veterans' Memorial Park, 2651 Roadrunner Parkway, Las Cruces

When: Tomorrow, Wednesday, May 27th 11:00 AM

RSVP: Interested Media Please Call or Email Sara Schreiber at 202-579-8086 or sara.schreiber@mail.house.gov to RSVP.